

President Harding Keeps an Open House at Washington

Capital Sees a Marked Change Since Days of Woodrow Wilson

Public Is Now Free to Wander Through White House Grounds, Long Closed During Democratic Administration; Chief Executive Easily Accessible

By Carter Field
WASHINGTON, March 22, 1921.
WHEN Warren G. Harding's friends began to boom him for President nearly two years ago one of their pet phrases was that he "was a McKinley type." They meant by that that after he got in the White House he would consult with his old friends on Capitol Hill, and that he would not forget the human equation in getting legislation through Congress and in the other problems which confront a President.

This claim by Mr. Harding's friends always was effective. It was the more appealing because President Wilson worked on the theory that the best solution of any problem could be worked out by him alone in his study, with such written memoranda as he might direct to have submitted to him. This method of settling questions never appealed strongly to Congressional leaders, or even to members of the President's Cabinet.

Perhaps the throwing open of the White House grounds to the public within three hours after Mr. Harding had taken the oath of office is the best outward and visible symbol of the sharp change which occurred at noon on March 4 in the relations between the occupant of the White House and those outside its portals.

This opening of the grounds has proved popular, certainly with sight-seers. They can troop in at the Executive offices' gate and walk right by the door of the White House, peeping in as they pass, both at the Executive offices, where the routine of the President is carried out and where he sees most of his visitors, and into the White House itself, or they can jockey through the White House grounds free even from imperative orders to "move on." Thousands literally take advantage of this privilege—which had come in the old days to be regarded almost as a right—every day. Ten thousand, it is estimated, walked through within three hours after the gates were opened March 4.

Informal Dinner Parties Frequent at White House
But while this is the most spectacular phase of the change, it is not anything nearly as important as other changes which are not so easily observed. The President and Mrs. Harding delight in small dinner parties, the sort that lead to informal discussions of whatever questions are of interest at the moment.

In the brief time since Mr. Harding entered the White House there have been at least a dozen such affairs, besides the sprinkling of formal dinners. The other night, for instance, Senator and Mrs. Harry S. New dropped over to

the White House for dinner, just as they did to the Harding home when the President was a Senator and lived in northwest Washington, a few blocks from the Indiana Senator.

On another night strict conventions were thrown to the wind at a little dinner party at which the President and Mrs. Harding entertained three or four Cabinet members with their wives and four or five Senators with their wives.

These dinners have not been chronicled in the daily news dispatches. No particular attention was attracted to them. They are not regarded by the White House as of news importance, as was, for instance, the dinner President Harding gave the Senate and House leaders just after inauguration. This was openly for the purpose of discussing the program in Congress. It is the intimate contact brought about by these informal dinners which makes the sharp contrast with the Wilson administration.

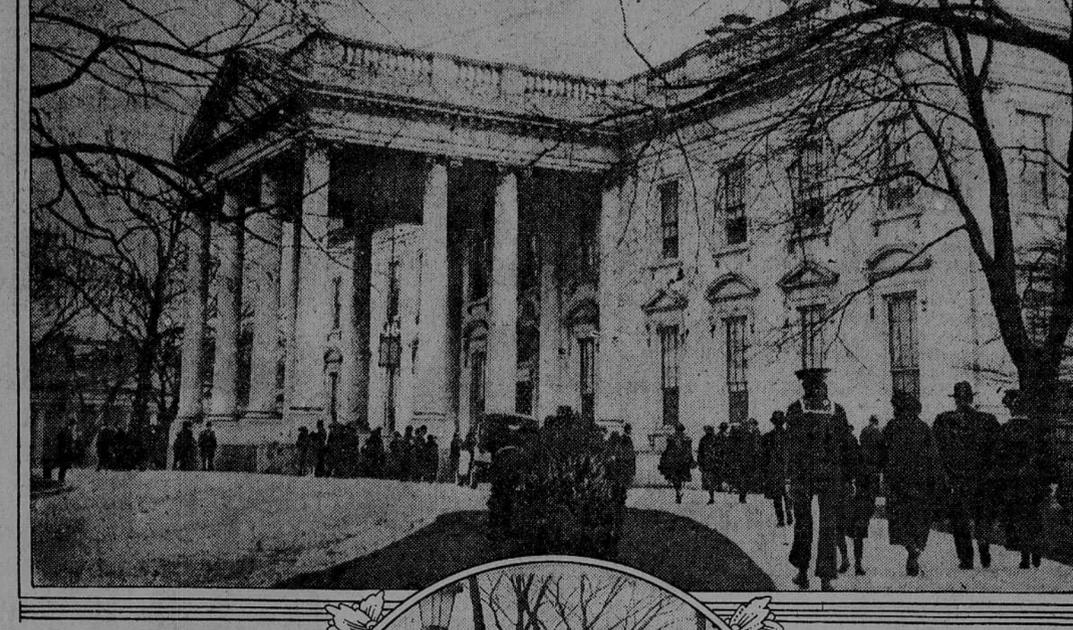
President and Mrs. Wilson on some occasions may have entertained a group of Senators and their wives, though no one here can recall it. Relative to the formal dinners, President Wilson would have been much more likely to have written a series of notes saying what he wanted done.

The only occasions recalled here of a series of conferences at the White House during the last Administration was when the President was trying to win over to his views men who already had gone on record publicly as opposing him. President Harding's plan is obviously to conciliate them in advance. Certainly the effect might be presumed to keep his one-time colleagues in a better humor.

Harding Easily Accessible To Large Number of Callers

The physical movements of the President around the capital are not different in any important particular from those of President Wilson. The two motorcycle policemen who formerly preceded President Wilson's automobile have been eliminated, but the touring car of Secret Service men still follows him. Until his illness President Wilson played a great deal of golf, motoring out to the clubs around Washington, morning or afternoon, as his fancy dictated. President Harding confines his golfing to the late afternoon and makes up for it by working at night.

The great difference in the Executive offices, to one who watched, is that President Harding sees an infinitely larger number of callers. Members of his Cabinet seem to wander in and out of his office almost at will. Senators and members of the House seem to have little difficulty in making appointments. Leaders from all over the country, anxious to get their oar in on patronage decisions, are able to see the President. In a word, the difference between the two administrations in this respect is the difference between accessibility and inaccessibility.



THE scenes of the White House above are symbolic of the change that has taken place in Washington. Woodrow Wilson had few visitors, but President Harding has many

Harding Adopts the Open Door Policy

Problems of State Discussed At White House Dinner Table

President and Mrs. Harding, Delighting in Informal Affairs, Throw Conventions to Winds, and Party Often Takes Up Important Questions of Moment

formal interview. At the close of the business discussion with regard to the Philippines Mr. Harding urged him to drop back later and join his box party for the "Hobby Show" of the National Press Club. The huge audience gathered for that entertainment saw in the Presidential box in friendly social contact the President, against whom General Wood battled in vain for the nomination; Secretary of War John W. Weeks, who had been given the Cabinet post for which General Wood's friends had boomed him, and Vice-President Coolidge. Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Coolidge were present, enhancing the effect of the social friendliness of the gathering.

On General Wood's next visit to Washington the President had him to dinner with Secretary Weeks—not a large formal dinner, just an informal family affair, after all the business had been settled in the afternoon.

Harding's Airedale Ends Petless Era at White House

Regarding the social life at the White House, it is recalled that in the days of the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson there were a number of musicales, although since her death there practically had been nothing of the kind. There have been showings of motion pictures at the White House—while Mr. Wilson's physical condition did not permit him to go to the theater—but even the New Year's receptions were abandoned after he entered the Executive Mansion.

Any story of changes at the White House would be incomplete without a reference to Laddie Boy, the President's Airedale. A bulldog also is coming, it is said, and there are rumors of an alligator which some admirer promised while the President was in Florida just before inauguration. This follows a petless era at the White House.

In the days of the Roosevelt the whole place was overrun by all sorts of curious animals sent the Colonel and his children by admirers, and Washington still occasionally chuckles over the story of how when Archie Roosevelt was sick his pet pony was carried up on the White House ele-

to him. As an instance of how far to the extreme Mr. Harding goes, Mr. Fordney, of the House Ways and Means Committee, wanted an idea from the President last Monday and had little time to spare. So he called the President on the telephone and settled the point.

President Shows Appreciation Of Value of Human Equation

Another interesting contrast in the relations between the White House and the rest of the country is the way Mr. Harding has dealt with men who were his rivals for the nomination. There has been keen interest, for instance, in the attitude of Mr. Harding and General Wood. It might be said, of course, that some public manifestation of respect or admiration for General Wood would be good politics on the part of Mr. Harding, the primary results having demonstrated that General Wood probably had the largest popular following of all the candidates for the Republican nomination. But these things also could be called good politics.

On General Wood's first visit to the White House after inauguration Mr. Harding did not content himself with a

vator and taken into his bedroom for a visit.

There have not been any children around the White House since the Roosevelt administration, so there is no change in that respect. However, the Hardings are so fond of children that most of their friends predict there will be frequent entertainment of children at the Executive Mansion.

Incidentally, the south lawn of the White House will be overhauled by children to-morrow—Easter Monday—for the first time in some years. The old Easter egg-rolling will be resumed, and indications are that there will be literally thousands of little ones armed with baskets of dyed eggs for the affair. It virtually will be the first time the children participating have enjoyed this forty-year-old custom, since those who would have rolled in the last few years had been permitted to have grown too old and dignified now, while an entirely fresh crop of children has reached the right age to enjoy the sport.

Barred from the White House grounds, the scene of the historic function, children in the last few years, hearing from older boys and girls of the gayety in the past, have attempted the practice on the great lawn stretching down from the Capitol to the Peace Monument. But somehow this did not possess the glamour—certainly it did not have the historic background.

Marine Band Concerts To Be Resumed on Lawn

Mrs. Harding, it is known, has been most interested in the revival of this old custom, and she is expected to be out among the children with the President to-morrow, joining in the fun. The children of Washington, needless to say, are praying that it will not rain.

On this same south lawn, one of the most beautiful spots in all Washington, it already has been decided that the Marine Band concerts will be resumed. For many years on Saturday afternoons in the summer the band has played here, people being permitted to ramble all over the inclosure from the south portico of the White House down to the semicircular iron fence which forms the southern boundary of the White House grounds. When Mr. Wilson came into the White House this was changed and the Saturday Marine Band concerts were shifted down to the ellipse south of the White House grounds and adjoining Potomac Park. The distance from streetcar lines made this location rather inaccessible to those not fortunate enough to have motors.

Sideights and Sketches of Life in the Cities of Europe

LONDON, March 19.—English manufacturers boast of many long non-strike records in their factories. A Scottish firm recently said that there had been no strike in their plant in the last 118 years and now many similar records are coming to light here.

Reeves & Sons, of Dalston, a firm controlled by members of one family since it was founded in 1790, according to a director, never has had "a strike, a rumor of a strike or the remotest possibility of a strike in the last 155 years. Neither has there been a collective request for higher wages, shorter hours or any other benefit whatsoever, or any rumor or suggestion of such action."

Another firm, J. Pullar & Sons, of Perth, claims to have forty-nine workers who have completed fifty years' service in their employ.

LONDON, March 19.—Americans who have visited London will learn with regret of the passing of Morley's Hotel, Trafalgar Square, one of the most popular houses with Americans here. The effects of the house have just been sold at auction, and Morley's will be remodeled as an office building, to serve as the London headquarters of the Union of South Africa.

Looking out upon Trafalgar Square, the Nelson Monument and the Lions, Morley's was the established headquarters of many Americans who came year after year to London. It was an exclusive and quiet hotel, and the Victorian calm lingered here long after Morley's had been supplanted by newer and more garish hotels.

PARIS, March 18.—Here is a new type of mascot—a diminutive wax model of yourself as a doll.

They are the latest craze in Paris—these small "living" portraits—and owe their popularity to the skill of Mme. Marie Vassiloff, an artist, who captures the expression and personality of a sitter, and reproduces a model doll that gives the character index of its owner. Some are made of kid and stuffed with sawdust. Some are two feet high and most imposing creations. But all have personality.

Among the prominent persons who have already sat to be modeled are M. Paul Poiret, the couturier; Princess Troubetzky (Mrs. Amelie Rives); Jo Davidson and Mme. Silva.

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According to Mr. Roscoe, the native kings are gourmets of the first order. Each morning the chief cook brings into the royal presence a pot of specially prepared meat. The courtiers sit in stony silence as he approaches. Any one who coughs or sneezes during this ceremony meets instant death. The chief cook takes a piece of meat on the end of a fork and puts it into the king's mouth. If the metal accidentally touches the king's teeth the cook dies by torture. If the king doesn't like the meat the cook dies.

The servants find the ordeal so trying that no one can stand it for more than three or four days. After such a short tour of duty a new cook takes over the job and his predecessor is given a six weeks' holiday.

Ten Boy Bandits Put On Trial in Turin Court
MILAN, March 17.—Ten communist delinquents, none of whom has reached the age of manhood, are being prosecuted in Turin for having put their communist ideas in practice. They

were not only fervid attendants of all Bolshevik meetings, but early morning and late at night practiced communism on the highroads leading to Turin. They are accused of more than one hundred thefts, assaults and robberies, but pride themselves in the fact of not having committed a single murder. They simply frightened their victims, then plundered them.

All are beardless, pale youths, but with the ruthless eyes of Paris Apaches. None of them has a fixed residence, trade or occupation, and they seem to have got their education in the lowest school of thieves. They waylaid milkmen, farmers and men afoot and on cart, and always appeared armed with pistols, knives and daggers. When arrested they freely confessed all their misdeeds and became loquacious, telling how it was not even necessary to strike their victims. It was enough for one of them to rush out with his pistol followed by two others with knives and frighten a cart driver or a fruit vender into submission.

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The tank is 52 feet long by 30 feet wide. When a shipbuilding firm plans a new vessel it submits a model of it, complete in every detail, to the experts in charge of the tank, and the toy ship is then sailed through miniature stormy seas of differing types. The little craft is towed through the water at varying speeds and artificial waves are produced that simulate all weather conditions. There are long ground swells, cross chops, moderate seas and hurricanes seas. The motions of the ship are carefully studied and improvements in design are then suggested.

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a horticulturist were he not heir to the throne of England.

The chief points of the character delineation follow:
The prince has a good life line.
His head line shows keen imagination.

If he had cultivated literature he would have been successful as a short story writer.
He is an affectionate temperament and is imitative.
His hand shows remarkable will power, but he is more inclined to be guided by his heart than his head.
He has remarkable powers of organization.
He is very artistic and appreciative of beautiful things.
He will meet with certain success in anything he undertakes in agriculture or horticulture.

"Noisy Ghost" Mystifies London Psychic Experts

LONDON, March 19.—The wave of interest in spiritualism and all things psychic continues to sweep England. One of the latest developments is the appearance of a poltergeist, or noisy ghost, at the London suburb of Hornsey.

The poltergeist appeared to be dominated by a small boy. When this boy was present in the rooms of a Hornsey house cooking and other moveables in the room flew about. The poltergeist created great excitement, and many experts visited Hornsey to attempt to solve the mystery. They were, however, unsuccessful and the noisy ghost has disappeared.

The Delphic Club in the West End is an organization recently formed for psychic research, and many other organizations have as their object communication with the other world. A number of society women, several of whom are titled, meet weekly in Knightsbridge to hold seances, where the governing spirit is an ordinary walking stick which seems to have supernatural powers. A question is asked of the medium and the walking stick points to an object in the room. The nature of the object gives the clue to the answer desired by the questioner.

French Actor Wins Suit Against Newspaper Critic

PARIS, March 18.—French literary and dramatic circles are interested in the bitter fight now being waged between authors and the newspaper critics. From present indications the authors hold the winning hand.

The battle arose over the French law which gives authors the right, when criticized in print to answer the criticism in just as much space as the criticism filled. The publication giving the criticism must also print the author's answer, and many other recently contested in the courts when M. Doumic, editor of the Revue des Deux Mondes, refused to insert in his review the reply of M. Silvain, the actor, and M. Jaubert, to criticism he had made on their play, "The Persians," produced at the Comédie Française.

The court decided against the editor, and the newspaper critics are clamoring for space for their rebuttals. Editors say that in view of the shortage of paper they shall have to cease criticism altogether if every criticism

must be accompanied by a lengthy literary report.

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Model of Yourself as A Doll Craze in Paris

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